29th March 1947]

(b) who the authority granting permits is;

(c) whether any appeal to Government is provided against the orders of the sanctioning authority;

(d) whether the Government themselves in the first instance have issued permits in certain instances without reference to the authorized sanctioning authority; and what the names of such grantees are;

(e) whether in such instances the grantees have invariably satisfied the conditions governing the sanction of permits;

(f) what steps are taken to ensure that the permit-holders do not transfer their permits for a consideration;

(g) whether any instances of abuses by permit-holders have come to the notice of Government and if so, what action has been taken in their cases; and

(h) whether permits have been granted to persons who do not belong to this province?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" The information[a] required is placed on the table of the House."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know from the Hon. Minister whether Government as such have power, or competent, to interfere with the powers of the licensing authority, as the order is passed by His Excellency the Governor?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Government is an appellate authority, and therefore Government has got the power."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I inform the Hon. Minister that in the various orders passed no mention of ' Government ' is made and the licensing authority alone is mentioned. I raise this because I think Government have taken upon themselves the power to issue instructions to the licensing authorities to issue certain permits. I believe this is *ultra vires*. I would like the Hon. Minister to have this examined by the Legal Department to see whether the Government are competent to issue instructions to the licensing authorities."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Yes, Sir."

Prices of agricultural products.

* 125 *Q.*—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Motor Transport and Food be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have undertaken or propose to undertake a survey of the prices of agricultural and ' non-agricultural ' products before and after the war; and

(b) whether statistics of the prices the cultivator was receiving before and after the war and the prices he has to pay during the same period for his bare necessities other than foods are available?

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a Printed as Appendix II on pages 515-518 infra.

[29th March 1947

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" (a) No. The Government of India have constituted a Board called the "Commodities Prices Board". This Board will maintain a continuous review over the prices of all commodities and assist the Government in the very difficult task of fixing prices by advising them as to the prices or price levels to be fixed for controlled commodities so that the best interests of the commodity may be served. The survey of the prices of the nature referred to in the question will be undertaken by the Board.

" (b) The Government are compiling and reviewing every week index numbers of prices of various commodities for 13 selected rural centres in the Province. In this connection the prices of food and non-food articles prevailing in these centres are being collected and recorded every week."

K. UPPI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" May I ask the Hon. Minister whether the price of paddy fixed now is economical to the agriculturist?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" As far as possible, the economic condition of the agriculturists is predominating in the minds of the Government. The prices now fixed are such that while answering the price level of the consumer, they also see that the producer also gets a fair share of profit."

Effect of reduced intake of food on youngsters.

* 126 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO: Wil the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state what steps the Government propose to take to study the effects of reduced intake of food due to reduced rations especially on children and young persons?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" The following steps have been taken to study the effects of reduced intake of food due to reduced rations especially on children and young persons :—

(i) A periodical examination of vulnerable groups such as infants, children, adolescents and nursing and pregnant woman for clinical signs of under-nutrition and malnutrition by the Health staff.

(ii) Measurements of heights and weights of groups of children in deficit areas and comparison of these data with those of standard biometric tables.

(iii) Analytical studies of mortality figures in different age groups from such of the causes as are directly or indirectly attributable to quantitative or qualitative deficiencies in food, e.g., dysentery, diarrhœa, respiratory diseases, starvation, etc., and comparison of infantile mortality rates, maternity mortality rates and general death rates with corresponding periods in previous years.

(iv) Observation of cases treated at the various hospitals and dispensaries.